

Preliminary Amendment
Attorney Docket No. 011002
Serial No. 09/923,543

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 18 are pending in the present application. By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1, 11, 16 and 18 have been amended and claims 6 and 14 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication given by Examiner Enichioya during an October 14, 2004 telephone conference that claim 1 would be allowable if amended to include the features of claim 6 and claims 11, 16 and 18 would be allowable if amended to include the features of claim 14.

It is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1, 11, 16 and 18 have been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, it is submitted that the all of the remaining pending claims 1 - 5, 7 - 13 and 15 - 18 are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

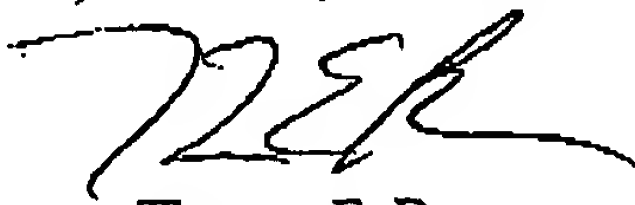
If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Preliminary Amendment
Attorney Docket No. 011002
Serial No. 09/923,543

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully Submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Thomas E. Brown
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 44,450

TEB:jli

1250 Connecticut Avenue
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 822-1100